

# Desert Aires

## Barbershop Chorus

ENTERTAINING THE WEST VALLEY

2026  
Issue 3



from the desk

2026 Officers  
& Directors

of the President...

**Roy  
Botterbusch**  
President

**Bob Geinosky**  
Secretary

**Rich Harvey**  
Treasurer

**Brion Grant**  
VP Music

**Smiley  
McGinnis**  
VP Membership

**Brion Grant**  
VP Program

**Aaron  
Burlison**  
VP Marketing

**Directors at  
Large**

**Bill Shaw 1y**

**Barney  
Barnhart 2y**

**Greg Layne 3y**

Gentlemen

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Annual Show/Afterglow a success. Feedback from members and guests at our Open House was positive - people enjoyed themselves, and the Chorus, Quartets, and STOMPERZ performed well. Several attendees new to Barbershop were impressed. Some members were even spotted smiling during the performance!

Our Open House was successful, with three guests (potential new members). Remember to continue promoting the Desert Aires Chorus and Quartets to friends and acquaintances and have fun!

Busy..Busy..This year we don't have a break between the Annual Show and Far West District (FWD) Convention in April having been blessed with three shows on March 1st, 17th and 31st. The newest on March 31st is our "5th Tuesday" show giving back to the community. Please update Choir Genius whether you will be able to attend. Details on locale, call times, and what to wear are on/will be on Choir Genius as we get closer to the date.

If you have not already so, please register for the Far West District Convention taking advantage of the early bird pricing (until March 20th) as we will be singing on April 18th. See the FWD site for details.

Roy



## Cary's Corner

The psychology of music is the scientific study of how music influences human emotion, cognition, and behavior. I've always said that music is a type of mind control. We humans are wired to recognize melodies and rhythmic patterns. Babies, including all my ten grandchildren, begin moving and bobbing when hearing music with a strong beat.

Some people believe that classical music played to children, infants, and even in utero, will positively influence brainpower, motor skills, and phonetic skills. That's a half-truth. Classical music is not better than other styles at positively affecting cognition. But, music listening, playing, and creating does have proven positive cognitive effects. Retail and grocery stores, casinos, and commercials are three places where music is used to change one's behavior. Retail and grocery stores often choose music specifically to change how you shop.

According to research at the University of Bath in England, grocery shoppers spent up to 10% more if the background music was slower. Slower music slowed down thought processes. Customers lingered more, and, therefore, purchased more. Interestingly, that effect was only seen Monday through Thursday. On the weekends, people were tired from the week, and the slower music did not have the same effect. A Psychology Today article references a study where either French music or German music was played in the adult beverage aisle. When French music was played, more French wine than German wine was purchased. The reverse effect occurred when German music was played.

Casinos tune all their machines to a single major chord. Major chords are associated with happy thoughts and promote gambling by relaxing the listener causing them to linger longer. Can you imagine if each company tuned their machines to random pitches? Yikes! Additionally, the use of musical machines occupies brains and reduces boredom.

Commercials use music to sell stuff. Jingles stick in our brains and make us ruminate about the products being sold. Most jingles are in a major key and have a carefully chosen melody. Sometimes jingles are complete songs. Do you remember the Oscar Meyer Weiner song? Or how about, Coca Cola's "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" in the early 70s.

But most advertising music is more covert. Commercials use music to make one think favorable things about their products. Here is Doritos commercial, [Click on Doritos commercial](#) where the beginning has sparse, but hopeful music as the new kid in school gets on the bus. As soon as they realize he has Doritos, the music changes to a more upbeat familiar tune. At the punch line of the commercial, the music cuts out. Here's one more commercial where the music cuts out at the most emotional part. [Click on Another example](#)

So, the next time you are shopping, gambling, or watching commercials, pay attention to the music and how it makes you to feel.

Cary

### Sources

In-store music makes supermarket shoppers spend more, but only on weekdays, [Click on In Store Music](#)

Influencing Consumer Behavior With Music [Click on Influencing Consumer behavior](#)

To click on link: Simply click on the link.  
If that doesn't work, copy the link and paste it in your browser.

38 year member of BHS,  
Musically Judge since 2010, 2024 Desertaires Barbershopper of the Year,  
Coach and arranger,  
Director of a senior men's chorus, the Desertaires of Sun Cities, AZ Chapter,  
Director of a women's a cappella chorus, Wicked Pitch of the West,  
Director of a 160 member community chorus for 20 years



## My Barbershop Journey

I was born in Cody, Wyoming, on September 10, 1937. Moved to Casper, WY, at 14 and graduated HS in 1955. Spent 4 years at the Univ. of WY, Laramie, and graduated with a BSCE. Went to graduate school at Montana State College for two years gaining a MSCE and a minor in International Relations. Married my first wife while attending WYU.

Over time my family grew to 2 sons and a daughter. Started my professional career surveying uranium claims in Wyoming. Followed my Dad's profession as a Civil Engineer specializing in soil mechanics, later called geo-technical engineering. Worked for Dad's firm in Casper for a couple of years and then joined Dames and Moore, the largest geo-technical firm in the world at the time. Started in the small Portland, Oregon, office then transferred to San Francisco. My big claim to fame is that my hard hat is holding up the Bank of America headquarters in SF. Spent 2 months in Vietnam during the war catching soil samples then off to the Atlanta, GA, as Chief Engineer. There I supervised the soil foundation field work for Disney World and for the nuclear power plant for South Carolina Power. Also designed my first earth dam while in Atlanta.

Skipped the offer of Partnership to go back to the Bay Area and eventually start my own engineering company. My firm did a preliminary siting study for a nuclear power plant in Iran when the Shah was still there. I spent a lot of time working with attorneys some of which were on the plaintive side (100+) and some on the defense (100+). Discovered the root-cause for debris-flow landslides and saved the City of Pacifica from a 12 million law suit and helped a contractor win a 12 million dollar suit. Too many stories to tell for this bio.

I retired in 1993 in Sacramento because my profession was interfering with my barbershop singing. My barbershop career started in Atlanta, Ga., with the Peachtree Chorus. Six months later the chorus won 4th place at International and I was hooked. After I moved back to the Bay Area, my son and I joined the Peninsulaires chorus and in 1980 and 82 captured a 3rd and 5th place finish at International.

While working as a consultant I met my current wife, Joanne, who also became the baritone in our various mixed quartets. I have belonged to 4 chapters in north cal west, two in north cal east, one in Atlanta, Frank Thorn, one Sweet Ad Chapter in Cody (which I directed for 8 years) and now three in Arizona. Most of my memberships have been dual while AZ is triple. And the best of all is quarteting!

## March Birthdays

Hugh Ryan 1st, Bill Shaw 24th

# 2026 Arizona Division Convention



Apollo High School

8045 N. 47th Ave.

Glendale, AZ

April 17-19 • Glendale, Arizona • Arizona Division Chorus and Quartet Contests • Harmony Platoon • Leadership Academy

Join us for the 2026 FWD Arizona Division Convention the weekend of April 17-19. We are holding this event at Apollo High School in Glendale, Arizona on. Get ready for a weekend filled with incredible music, exciting performances, and unforgettable memories. Whether you're a seasoned barbershop enthusiast or simply enjoy harmonious melodies, this convention is perfect for everyone. We can't wait to see you there!

We will award Quartet and Chorus champions, Novice and Senior Quartet champions, Plateau A/AA/AAA Chorus champions; Youth and Super Seniors Quartets can compete at this event, but awards for these classifications will not be given until all five FWD division contests have completed. Additionally, this event will be used to qualify quartets and choruses for the Fall District contests coming up in October.

We always welcome groups that would like to perform but are not interested in the contest. Our audiences are the best around, and our judges are there to help every group achieve its goals. Please join us at the event most convenient for you: we would love to see you!

All events are open to men's, women's, & mixed quartets/choruses.

**Early-Bird Discount - available online until March 20**

**Competitor - \$65.00**

**Non-Competitor - \$45.00**

**Non-Member Child under 12 Child - Free**

**GREAT SHOW**  
**Great Sound**



Yes Dear



That Old Quartet of Mine



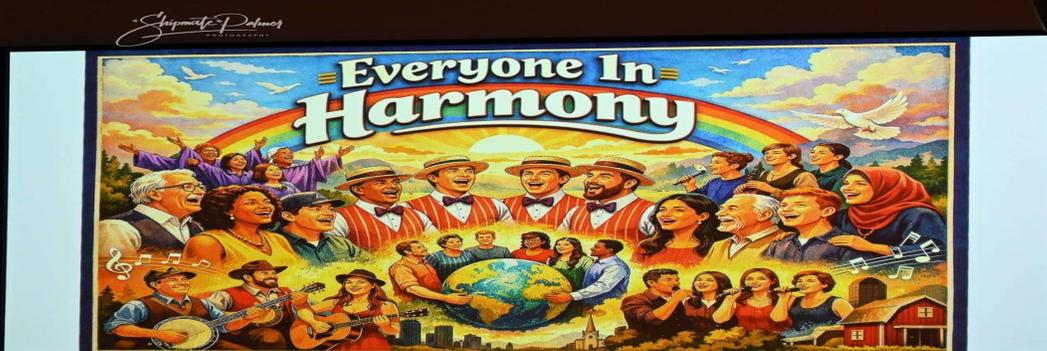
Gunner Varga



Off The Clock



Great Show Guys





**ALL SHOW PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION. COURTESY OF RICHARD "SHIPMATE" PALMER**





Looks like  
we're having  
fun



*Grog as Cary Burns*

What a Great  
Audience



*Mixed Meta 4*



*Midwest Connection*



*Yes Dear*

# Just some of the photos from Valentine's Day

Hi Fred -- You and your group are a treasure, and that Valentine visit brought me indescribable happiness - would you please share this message with the rest of them for me?

~~ TO 4 WONDERFUL GUYS ~~

Thank you each and all for an experience that will live forever in my heart. Your singing was so incredibly special -- four 24-carat voices, blended with perfect pitch, and accompanied by gentle smiles and endearing body language. It will all live forever in my memory and in my heart. And if you ever make a recording you could share over the Internet, please consider me to be first in line. with heartfelt admiration and gratitude, Sally Everett



# Our Best After Glow Yet.

## The Three Generations of Harmony



## Just In Time



## Cut For Time



## Time Was



## Old Quartet of Mine



## Midwest Connection



## Mixed Meta 4



## Yes Dear



## Off The Clock



Thank you Brion & Barney

Family  
is like  
Music  
some high note  
some low note  
but always a  
Beautiful  
song



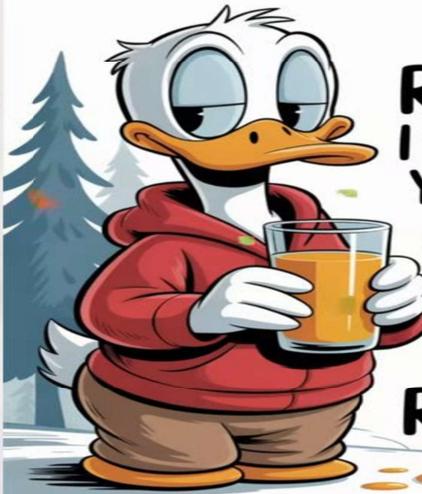
KEEPING IT  
LOW KEY



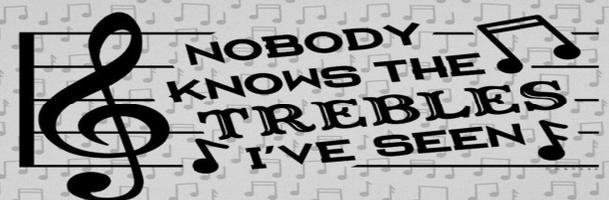
AGING May have  
slowed  
me  
down  
but  
it hasn't  
SHUT ME UP!



I'M  
RETIRED.  
I WAS TIRED  
YESTERDAY,  
AND I AM  
TIRED  
AGAIN  
TODAY.  
RE-TIRED.



NOBODY  
KNOWS THE  
TREBLES  
I'VE SEEN



I THINK I HAVE ALZHEIMER'S  
BECAUSE I CAN'T REMEMBER  
WHEN I ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION.



I couldn't ask  
for better friends...  
More normal ones  
maybe!!! But what fun  
would that be?